

REMARKS

In the Office Action,¹ the Examiner:

- (a) objected to claim 11;
- (b) rejected claims 1-4 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite;
- (c) rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prokoski (U.S. Patent No. 6,920,236) ("Prokoski") in view of Li (U.S. Patent No. 7,155,036) ("Li");
- (d) rejected claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prokoski and Li, and further in view of Howard et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0213437) ("Howard");
- (e) rejected claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prokoski and Li, and further in view of Nakamura (U.S. Patent No. 7,212,233) ("Nakamura");
- (f) rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prokoski, Li, and Howard, and further in view of Nakamura; and
- (g) indicated allowable subject matter in claims 3, 8, 9, and 11.

Applicants have amended claims 3, 8, 9, and 11 to improve form and clarity.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-2, 4-7, 10, and 12-14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 3, 8, 9, and 11 will remain pending in this application.

¹ The Office Action may contain statements characterizing the related art, case law, and claims. Regardless of whether any such statements are specifically identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statements in the Office Action.

Objection to Claim 11:

Applicants have amended claim 11 to overcome the Examiner's objection thereto. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw his objection.

Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph:

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have rewritten claim 3 in independent form to include the features of original claims 1 and 2, and rewritten claim 8 in independent form to include the features of original claim 7. In rewriting claims 3 and 8 in independent form, Applicants have amended the claims to improve form and address the issues raised by the Examiner in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have also amended claims 9 and 11 to improve form and address the issues raised by the Examiner in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants therefore submit that claims 3, 8, 9, and 11 fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw his rejection. Furthermore, Applicants' cancellation of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, and 12 renders their rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, moot.

Rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, and 12-14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are moot.

Allowable subject matter:

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 3, 8, 9, and 11. Since Applicants have rewritten dependent claims 3 and 8 in independent form to include the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims and have further amended claims 3, 8, 9, and 11 to improve form and ensure compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claims 3, 8, 9, and 11 should be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the rejections. Pending claims 3, 8, 9, and 11 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request a favorable action.

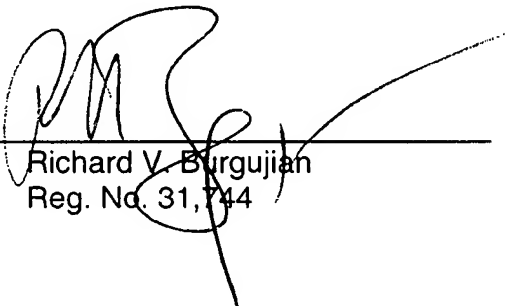
If there are any remaining issues or misunderstandings, Applicants request the Examiner telephone the undersigned representative to discuss them.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 4, 2007

By: _____


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